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ATHLETICS.

London's White City - and the Britain - France athletic match - attracts the stay-at-home landlubber. A flying start that beat the gun gives stocky Les Laing an unexpected triumph in the 100 yards. Britain's No. 1 - McDonald Bailey - left behind at the start - puts on an electrifying burst to finish second.

In the field events, where Britain so often lags behind, the home country doesn't do badly - although it is a Frenchman - GEORGES BREITMANN - who wins the pole vault. Biggest disappointment for record seekers comes in the mile - traditionally the highlight of an athletic match. British champion Bill Nankerville - in white vest - jumps into an early lead and the race seems his. Running as easily as in his recent record-breaking race, the tall Surrey market-gardner raises hopes of an even better time. But it is not to be. Frenchman JEAN VERNIER gains on Nankerville with every yard, and with the Briton visibly tiring VERNIER races home in 4 minutes 10 seconds to give France her only track win.

The biggest thrill is the 120 yards hurdles. Greying Don Finlay, although badly away at the start, astonishes his rivals and a madly excited crowd to score a remarkable triumphtriumph. Hurdling with the ease of a ballet dancer, Finlay clips one-tenth of a second off the British record he set up 12 years ago. It can't be Mr. Strachey's diet that makes him run.

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